

WORKFORCE OBSERVATIONS FOR FOX VALLEY WISCONSIN COUNTIES

June 2002



State of Wisconsin
Department of Workforce Development

Spring Continues to Improve to the Fox Valley Area's Unemployment Rates

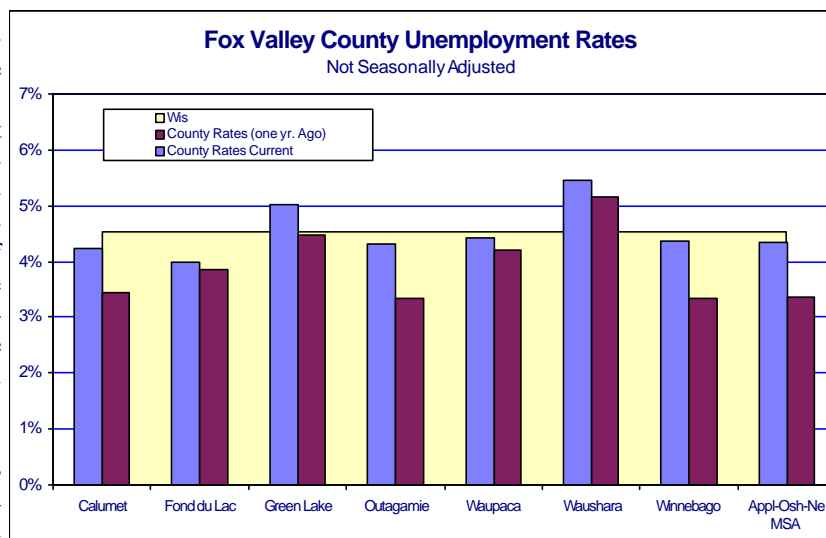
All the counties in the Fox Valley Workforce Development Area saw marked improvement in their unemployment rates from April to May. The seasonally unadjusted rate for the region was down 1.1 of a percentage point from April. The decrease in the rate follows seasonal patterns for the month of May. The rate for the region was at 4.3 percent, just below the state's unadjusted rate of 4.5 percent.

Two of the area's seven counties had rates between 5.0 and 5.4 percent, while the remaining counties and the Appleton/Oshkosh/Neenah MSA had rates in the lower four percent range.

The two factors that go into determining the areas unemployment rate, labor force size and the number employed had two different stories to tell for the month. Employment levels like most years for the month of May increased. The number employed over April increased by 4,000 to 324,400. This was 6,300 above last year and shows continued growth in the area's economy despite the a national downturn over the last 18 to 24 months.

The other story of the declining unemployment rate was the below normal growth in the number entering the labor force over the last month and year. This was the second month in a row with below normal labor force growth. Spring normally has a large number of workers entering the labor force, this year the labor force

increased by 200. This compares to a decline of 5,900 for the State of Wisconsin for the month.



Although the monthly figure is below normal, overall growth in the labor force in the region over the last twelve months was 9,000. The weak labor force increase may be due to several factors, such as a number of workers becoming discouraged with the slow employment picture. Just as likely was the poor weather during May. Since many of the jobs that become available during spring are seasonal, they depend on good weather.

With the cool and wet period during May, this may have slowed employment and labor force growth a bit.

Nonfarm wage and salary (NFWS) employment levels rose

by 3,900 to 284,900 during the month. Most of the increase was in the construction industry which was up nearly 2,000 jobs to 18,600. The only industry sectors to have losses over the month were manufacturing, which was down 240 jobs and transportation and public utilities which was down 10 over the month.

Manufacturing continues to lag in the recovery of employment in the region. It is the only sector that has

fewer workers than one year ago. It is down 4,100 jobs from last year to 74,500.

Labor Force Estimates (Seasonally Adjusted)				
	Appleton-Oshkosh-Neenah MSA	Wisconsin	United States (000s)	
May-2002				
Civilian Labor Force	232,700	3,050,900	142,769	
Employment	222,500	2,905,600	134,417	
Unemployment	10,200	145,300	8,351	
Unemployment rate	4.4%	4.8%	5.8%	
April-2002 Change				
Civilian Labor Force	400	(14,500)	199	
Employment	1,600	7,200	441	
Unemployment	(1,200)	(21,700)	(243)	
Unemployment rate	-0.5%	-0.6%	-0.2%	
May-2001 Change				
Civilian Labor Force	5,700	63,300	1,324	
Employment	3,200	50,200	(818)	
Unemployment	2,500	13,100	2,141	
Unemployment rate	1.0%	0.4%	1.5%	

Note: All estimates are round and preliminary, based on place of residence.

Seasonally Adjusted Unemployment Rates

The seasonally adjusted rate for the Appleton-Oshkosh-Neenah MSA declined 0.5 of a percentage point from last month to 4.3 percent. The May rate was 1.0 of a percentage point above the one year ago level..

The nation's unemployment rate declined 0.2 of a percentage

point to 5.8 percent. The rate in the State of Wisconsin declined 0.6 of a percentage point to 4.8 percent. To the north, the rate for the Green Bay MSA was 4.1 percent, down 0.8 of a percentage point from April.

For additional labor market statistics contact our website at <http://www.dwd.state.wi.us/lmi>.

Labor Force and Employment Estimates for the Wisconsin Fox Valley Counties

May-2002	App/Osh/Neenah	Fond du Lac	Green Lake	Waupaca	Waushara	Region	Wisconsin
Civilian Labor Force*	231,300	57,500	11,100	27,400	11,800	339,100	3,040,400
Employed	221,300	55,200	10,500	26,100	11,200	324,400	2,902,700
Unemployed	10,000	2,300	600	1,200	600	14,700	137,700
Unemployment rate(%)	4.3%	4.0%	5.0%	4.4%	5.4%	4.3%	4.5%
Seasonally Adj. rate(%)	4.4%	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	4.8%
Total, all industries**	205,400	49,500	8,100	21,900	6,100	284,900	2,844,600
Construction & Mining	13,600	3,500	600	1,000	300	18,600	129,800
Manufacturing	54,900	11,700	1,700	6,100	700	74,500	564,100
Transportation & Public Utilities	9,600	2,400	300	800	300	13,000	132,700
Wholesale Trade	9,200	1,900	100	900	200	12,100	138,200
Retail Trade	34,800	9,600	1,400	4,000	1,400	49,800	505,700
Finance,Insurance,Real Estate	9,700	1,800	300	600	200	12,500	152,100
Services	48,900	12,800	2,300	4,400	1,400	68,400	794,400
Government	24,600	6,000	1,300	4,000	1,500	35,900	427,500
Change from previous month							
Civilian Labor Force*	200	100	-100	-100	100	200	-5,900
Employed	2,400	800	100	300	300	4,000	30,400
Unemployed	-2,200	-700	-200	-500	-200	-3,800	-36,300
Unemployment rate(%)	-0.9%	-1.2%	-2.2%	-1.8%	-1.1%	-1.1%	-1.2%
Seasonally Adj. rate(%)	-0.5%	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	-0.6%
Total, all industries**	2,600	600	300	400	200	3,900	35,100
Construction & Mining	1,690	140	50	70	20	1,950	11,600
Manufacturing	-330	80	20	10	10	-240	1,400
Transportation & Public Utilities	-80	40	10	10	0	-10	1,900
Wholesale Trade	110	10	0	0	0	120	1,400
Retail Trade	170	130	70	140	50	520	8,200
Finance,Insurance,Real Estate	90	0	10	10	10	100	700
Services	690	80	120	100	60	980	11,500
Government	290	70	70	30	30	460	-1,700
Change from year ago							
Civilian Labor Force*	5,600	2,000	400	700	300	9,000	62,300
Employed	3,200	1,900	300	500	300	6,300	49,100
Unemployed	2,400	200	100	100	0	2,800	13,200
Unemployment rate(%)	1.0%	0.1%	0.5%	0.2%	0.3%	0.7%	0.3%
Seasonally Adj. rate(%)	1.0%	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0.4%
Total, all industries**	-900	1,100	10	170	120	400	1,300
Construction & Mining	790	390	10	70	20	1,260	0
Manufacturing	-3,600	-410	-130	-10	-10	-4,100	-21,900
Transportation & Public Utilities	160	130	10	10	10	300	-3,500
Wholesale Trade	150	40	-10	-50	-20	140	400
Retail Trade	-370	160	0	30	0	-190	3,900
Finance,Insurance,Real Estate	350	50	30	10	0	440	2,500
Services	670	540	30	-30	120	1,210	17,100
Government	960	160	70	140	10	1,330	3,000

* Includes participants residing in area. ** Includes employment with employers located in area. Estimates are NOT seasonally adjusted unless noted. Current month estimates are preliminary. Totals may not add due to rounding. Calculations based on unrounded numbers.

Look for the most current Labor Market Information at: WWW.DWD.STATE.WI.US/LMI

Direct questions and comments to: Richard Seidemann, Labor Market Analyst

Sheboygan County Job Center, 3620 Wilgus Avenue, Sheboygan, WI 53081

920-208-5809 920-459-3845(FAX) E-mail: seider@dwd.state.wi.us